

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, May 11, 2015  
12:30 PM – The Old U.S. Mint  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum was called to order by Chairman Michael M. Davis at 12:30 PM at The Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Jerry F. Adams; Robert A. Barnett; Charles R. Davis; Michael M. Davis; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; Allen J. “AJ” Gibbs; Jeffrey Pipes Guice; Janet V. Haedicke, Ph.D.; Kevin Kelly; Thomas Frère Kramer, M.D.; Aleta Leckelt; William J. Perret, M.D.; Lawrence N. Powell, Ph.D.; Anne F. Redd; Philip Woollam; and Diane K. Zink

Members Absent: Madlyn B. Bagneris; Myrna B. Bergeron; Sharon Turcan Gahagan; William J. Wilton, Jr.; and Donna Winters

Also Present: Julia George Moore, DCRT Counsel; Mark A Tullos, Jr., Director, Louisiana State Museum

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Chairman M. Davis called the meeting to order. Mr. Barnett MOVED, seconded by Ms. Ewing, to approve the agenda. No public comment. **Unanimously approved.**

**Minutes**

The minutes from the April 13, 2015 meeting were distributed in advance. Mr. Woollam MOVED, seconded by Ms. Zink, to approve the April 13, 2015 LSM Board minutes. No public comment.

**Unanimously approved.**

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. M. Davis advised the Board of the following upcoming meetings:

Irby/Finance Committee meeting	June 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10:30 AM
LSM Board meeting	June 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12:30 PM (lunch 12 N)
Collections Committee meeting	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 1 PM

**Proposed LSM legislation**

Mr. M. Davis asked Ms. Ruth Burke to give an overview of legislation that the Friends of the Cabildo introduced regarding the LSM Board. One was that the Board terms be staggered instead of being concurrent with the Lt. Governor. Also, the FOC hopes to strengthen the credentials of the Board members. Ms. Burke has been working with Randy Davis, Anne Redd, and Philip Woollam

regarding the legislation. FOC and the LMF looked at other Boards' best practices in creating the proposed legislation.

The number of organizational representatives on the Board would increase to 13 out of 21 members. At-large Lt. Governor appointees would be reduced to 8. Two seats would be added for the Capitol Park Museum Friends group; and there would now be two representatives on the Board, each from FOC and LMF. In addition, the Board would advise DCRT and LSM staff on the State budget process, which goes hand in hand with increasing the qualifications of Board members. In addition, the legislation would strengthen the qualifications for future museum Directors. The Board would form a search committee, create qualifications and provide three candidates to send to the Lt. Governor.

Because the museum Director is an unclassified civil servant, it is sometimes hard to get qualified Directors at a somewhat low salary. This legislation would enable the Board to supplement the Director's salary. Ms. Ewing said the legislation currently reads that the museum Director must have 10 years' experience in administration and curatorship. She asked if that is still included in the museum legislation. Ms. Burke said the Board would establish the criteria for the museum Director qualifications and that would change with each situation. Ms. Ewing said she wishes the LSM Board had been made aware of this new proposed legislation. She felt it would have been a nice courtesy to have been advised in advance.

Mr. Adams said he has been on the Board a long time and feels that two 4-year terms versus the current unlimited 4-year terms could limit his and Ms. Leckelt's representative organizations as often they are unable to get anyone else willing to give the time needed to be a Board member. Dr. Perret said he doesn't like the director being able to be hired and fired at will by the Lt. Governor. Mr. R. Davis said the Lt. Governor could not support the part of the legislation that would have allowed the Board to decide on the hiring and firing of the Director.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Tullos gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the LSM. The LSM has suffered more budget cuts this year and there will be more next year. The good news is that the LSM is planning to reintroduce our New Orleans jazz collection in the Old U.S. Mint. Greg Lambousy is leading the exhibits team and Karen Leathem is working on the history behind the collection. We plan to have it installed by 2017. At that point, it is hoped we will be able to charge admission for the Mint. The exhibit will be developed and built totally in-house.

We are still working on a collections catalog. LSM staff is also planning to have a Napoleon Room at the Cabildo. The Saints' 50th anniversary is coming up in late 2016 and the museum in Natchitoches hopes to commemorate this in some manner. LSM still needs a cash match to wrap up the colonial documents digitization project. LSM is also planning to re-design of the Cabildo exhibits.

Mr. Tullos introduced Jennae Biddiscombe, Director of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in Natchitoches. Ms. Biddiscombe said there have been steady visitation numbers. And they just had the opening for the Clementine Hunter murals exhibit. They are getting good audience draws for that particular exhibit. In addition, the staff members in Natchitoches are engaging residents on a regular basis. They just finished a Cooperative Endeavor

Agreement (CEA) with Northwestern State University (NSU) and hope to get some interns from them soon.

The LSM had a great event recently at the Museum in Patterson, honoring Butch Felterman. Dr. Kramer said the Wedell-Williams Aviation Museum is a real gem and should be visited.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> there will be “A Night at the Museum” fundraiser given at Capitol Park by the Friends group in Baton Rouge.

Mr. M. Davis asked if LSM was doing anything for the 10th year anniversary of Katrina. Ms. Hammatt said we are adding a photo exhibit in the Presbytere with photos from hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Betsy and we are doing some programming around it.

### **Irby/Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Barnett called upon Mr. R. Davis for a report on financials and related projections. Mr. R. Davis said there is not much new to report regarding financials or budget cuts since the last Board meeting in April. Mr. R. Davis stated that Irby projections suggest a surplus at the end of the year. In addition, LSM may benefit from some self-generated funds in the joint budget to offset some costs that Irby was called up to assume. At the June meeting, Mr. R. Davis expects to have updated projections for the Irby budget and the Board to consider. It is anticipated to be similar to last year's budget.

Mr. Barnett next reported on the Committee review of the commercial lease and said that the Committee on the commercial lease review will meet on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM after the Board meeting.

It was also reported that the Committee discussed the LSM residential rent study of several years ago, but decided to wait to review the Upper Pontalba's rent study completed in 2015. Staff has requested the City's study. The study should be approved at the French Market Corporation's May 26th Board meeting, at which time the study is supposed to be voluntarily provided to or shared with the Louisiana State Museum. If not timely provided, Mr. Barnett asked for a Motion to allow LSM staff authorization to issue a Public Records Request for the report. Mr. M. Davis motioned and Ms. Zink seconded. There was no public comment. **Unanimously approved.**

Mr. Barnett next reported on the addition of new permanent residents at 535 St. Ann. A request by the current residential tenant at 535 St. Ann Street, 2nd floor, Mr. Boue, sought approval of his stepsons, Brad and John Pitts, to be listed as permanent occupants on the lease. Staff recommended the approval. The members discussed the policy of additions of persons to leases, but only with the understanding that such new tenants may not then become a substitute tenant on the lease. Motion by Mr. M. Davis to allow Brad and John Pitts to become permanent residents for the purposes of the lease but not tenants for the purposes of substituting themselves in the place of Mr. Boue, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Kramer. There was no public comment. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Barnett next reported on the status of construction activity. Staff reported that the re-roofing project is still in progress. Currently, the contractor is on the 2nd to last phase of the project.

Mr. Barnett next reported that the Committee and Staff have revisited the current residential plant policy and watering issue. The Irby members unanimously stated that it was abundantly clear to

them that the balcony wrought iron is deteriorating due to apparent overwatering of the plants by tenants. In addition, it was remarked that where the plants were hanging on the balcony, the surfaces below have become calcified and have discolored the ironwork and all fascia. It was recommended by the Irby/Finance Committee that Ms. Washington send out a notice to all residential tenants that all plants are to be removed from balconies and railings by June 1st or evictions will be discussed. Staff reported that the ironwork in numerous spots where the plants were hanging needs sandblasting and repainting. A series of pictures of 810 Chartres, 3rd floor were displayed. The railing appeared to be in good shape without any indication of deterioration. Pictures of 543 St. Ann, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and 810 Chartres, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor demonstrated the effect of plants and watering. The fascia on 543 St. Ann, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor appeared moldy and clearly rotting due to watering of the plants. Additionally, photos of the railing of 810 Chartres, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor showed delamination and deterioration. Staff informed the members that when plants were removed from 810 Chartres, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, there was significant calcium build up on the railings where the plants had been. The balconies are all iron and it was Staff's opinion that the constant watering of plants by the tenants was the cause of the damages. There was a brief discussion about an estimate received from Economy Iron Works to furnish labor and materials to repair the iron work damage to the railing at 810 Chartres, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the amount of \$5,395. The members discussed the Policy and Procedure Manual for the Lower Pontalba residents, that places liability on the tenant for damage caused by such acts as excessive watering. Mr. R. Davis said the Committee and staff must decide if a tenant should not be allowed to have plants and also if a tenant should not be allowed to excessively hose the floor of a balcony. Mr. M. Davis said he does not want to see a total ban on the plants or hosing of balconies. Mr. M. Davis also does not like to see Irby charge the tenant for the total cost of repairs to the railing without any specific letters of warning to a particular tenant. Dr. Powell said it is written into the Policy and Procedure Manual that a tenant is liable for damage caused by plants or excessive watering. Mr. Barnett again asked if LSM should ban all plants on all balconies and railings. Mr. Kelly again expressed his concern that LSM should not issue a blanket policy to abolish plants on balconies or decks of any units. He felt the media backlash would be detrimental. However, Mr. Kelly did feel the tenant should pay for the repairs to the iron work. Mr. R. Davis said the damage must be stopped immediately and that the railing be repaired. Once repairs are made, LSM staff will have to be more diligent in watching what any tenant does. Ms. Zink suggested LSM staff write the tenant a letter giving the tenant the estimate or the opportunity to submit their own estimate. Ms. Zink motioned for LSM staff to notify the residential tenant at 810 Chartres Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor that repairs for the damage caused to the iron work on the balcony railing will be approximately \$5,000 and the tenant will be required to pay for the cost of all repairs. Ms. Washington should be authorized to issue a letter invoking the Policy and Procedure Manual; and attaching the photos of the damage. The tenant can timely submit his own proposal within sixty (60) days, all subject to staff approval. Seconded by Ms. Ewing. No further public comment. The motion was **unanimously approved.**

Ms. Ewing made a motion that a new policy be enacted immediately that all plants, whether hanging from above, fixed over railings or sitting on the floor of any unit of the Lower Pontalba be removed by each respective tenant by June 1, 2015 and that no such plants be allowed thereafter until further reviewed by Irby/Finance Committee. Mr. Kelly seconded the Motion. Staff informed the members that it has all contact info and emails of each tenant. A letter will be issued to each tenant about the new policy, together with a copy of the photographs. Mr. Kelly again suggested LSM state that this policy is going into immediate effect because we need to preserve the building. The new policy is effective June 1, 2015. There was no further comment from the public. The Motion was **unanimously approved.**

The next issue discussed by Mr. Barnett was evidence of the excessive hosing and/or mopping of the balconies. Mr. Tullos briefly spoke of the problem when tenants hose the balcony floor instead of using a traditional mop and bucket. At this time, it was decided by the Committee to leave the excessive watering or hosing of the balcony floors for further discussion.

Mr. Barnett briefly spoke of the next issue, namely issues within the lease as to “Common Area Maintenance” (CAM) charges or fees. He stated that the current charges are only estimates and that the Committee’s current plan is to better identify what may be more accurately due. Mr. R. Davis reminded the members that these are only estimates. Dr. Haedicke told the members that she felt the CAMs are low in general and she understood that new CAM rates change on October 1st each year. The CAM issue will be discussed more in-depth at the Sub-Committee meeting on June 8, 2015. Mr. Barnett expressed concern that there are too many calendar dates in the process and that there should be one date. It was too cumbersome to have a lease date of February 1, state fiscal date of July 1 and CAM calculation date of October 1.

### ***Friends of the Cabildo Report***

Ms. Burke read the report.

Ms. Burke reiterated her earlier discussion with the Board about introducing legislation, which would amend Louisiana’s existing laws of governance over the State Museum Board, which the idea of creating a private/public partnership between the State and the LSM’s Board of Directors. If successful, the revised law would be extremely beneficial to further the goal of enhancing fundraising opportunities in the private sector.

The bill is currently making its way through the legislative process, and is supported by Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne. It provides a framework of checks and balances, with better accountability and more shared responsibility between the State and the LSM Board.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

1. The qualifications of the new LSM Board members are being enhanced, to include expertise and experience in various skills needed for effective Board participation in the Museum’s governance.
2. New Board members will continue to be appointed by the Lt. Governor, but the Board will serve staggered 4-year terms, with a limit of 2 terms per Board member. The number of stakeholder positions will be increased to a total of 13. The at-large appointees will be reduced to 8.
3. The LSM Board and Lt. Governor will participate together in the fiscal budget process.
4. The LSM Board and Lt. Governor will also participate in establishing museum policy.
5. The qualifications for future Museum Directors will be strengthened.
6. The Board will be able to supplement the salary of the Museum Director, if desired, through the Irby fund and/or the LMF.
7. The Lt. Governor’s office agreed to codify the process of allowing the Board to form a search committee, which would provide 3 candidates for the appointment of Museum Director, to the Lt. Governor.

### ***Louisiana Museum Foundation Report***

Ms. Redd gave the report.

The LMF's annual meeting is May 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM at Brennan's on Royal Street. Ms. Redd asked Board members to please become a member of the LMF. Join if you can and an invitation will be sent to you.

### **LSM properties**

#### ***E.D. White Historic House***

Ms. Leckelt said E.D. White will host the "Kids Under the Oaks" on April 2, 2016.

#### ***Wedell-Williams Aviation Museum***

Mr. Stark said the Museum hosted a recent event honoring Butch Felterman

#### ***Capitol Park Museum***

There will be a fundraiser on June 6th for "A Night at the Museum."

Also, in April, 3,100 students came through the Museum. This year has been a record year.

#### ***Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum***

Ms. Biddiscombe said the SHOF Foundation will be having their new inductee banquet on June 26th.

Adjournment at 1:55 PM.